

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /060 W

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R 040334Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3363

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0081

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: REPORT OF LEADERSHIP DISSENSION AND PLA ATTITUDES

1. RELIABLE HONG KONG CHINESE BUSINESS SOURCE PASSED TO CONGENOFF INFORMATION TOLD HIM DECEMBER 31 BY SHANGHAI RESIDENT ENGINEER FRIEND WHO ARRIVED HONG KONG DECEMBER 27 FROM PRC. THE SHANGHAI ENGINEER HAD RECENTLY TALKED TO A CLOSE FRIEND WHO IS A PLA OFFICER IN THAT CITY ABOUT PRC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE PLA OFFICER SAID THE NPC COULD NOT BE HELD UNTIL PROBLEMS IN THE TOP PEKING LEADERSHIP WERE SETTLED BUT NO ONE COULD SAY WHEN THIS WOULD BE BECAUSE OF AN IMPASSE. ACCORDING TO THE PLA OFFICER, PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI WAS NOT ACTUALLY ILL. HIS WITHDRAWAL AND LEADERSHIP INACTIVITY REPRESENT HIS PROTEST TO CHAIRMAN MAO OVER A MATTER WHICH TOOL PLACE SOME MONTHS AGO INVOLVING CHIANG CHING. PLA LEADER YEH CHIEN-YING IN LATE SPRING 1974 HAD DISCOVERED THAT CHIANG CHING HAD ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE OR GROUP IN PEKING WHICH WAS GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT CHOU

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AND YEH THAT CHIANG CHING INTENDED TO USE FOR CRITICISM PURPOSES.

YEH ORDERED A PLA UNIT TO SEIZE THESE DOCUMENTS. CHIANG CHING THEREUPON WENT TO TIENTSIN AND BROUCH BACK PEOPLE TO SUPPORT HER. YEH THEN PROTESTED TO MAO THAT SUCH ACTIONS WERE INTOLERABLE. MAO SAID INITIALLY THAT HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THIS ALLEGATION WAS TRUE, WHEREUPON YEH PRODUCED THE SEIZED RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS. CHOU EN-LAI ALSO MADE A STRONG PROTEST TO MAO AND WHEN NO ACTION WAS TAKEN, CHOU BEGAN HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM ACTIVITY AND WENT INTO HOSPITAL AND HAS REMAINED THERE. THE ENGINEER NOTED THAT HIS PLA OFFICER FRIND'S TONE AND MANNER SHOWED HE CLEARLY SUPPORTED CHOU AND YEH. MOREOVER THE PLA OFFICER INDICATED THAT THE ABOVE WAS A TOPIC OF FREQUENT DISCUSSION AMONG PLA ELEMENTS.

2. COMMENT. WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO ASSESS THE VALIDITY OF THE ABOVE ACCOUNT, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SUCH ACCOUNTS ARE BEING CIRCULATED AND DISCUSSED BY THE PLA.
CROSS

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NNN

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